



**WCFC Meeting  
October 12, 2011  
Seattle Municipal Tower  
Seattle, Washington**

Attending: Ara Erickson, Joe Scorcio, Scott Thomas, Sarah Foster, Jeff Beckwith, David Nelson, Kathy Wolf, Sandy Salisbury, Terry Flatley

Absent: Barbara Hollenbeck, Jim Flott, Jim Freed, Mark Kahley, Brian Cramer

Guests: Mark Gray, Linden Mead, Jessica Farmer, Tim Griffith, Weston Brinkley

The meeting was called to order at 9 am.

The Council was welcomed by Jessica Farmer, from the City of Seattle's Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE), where she works with the Seattle ReLeaf and Trees for Neighborhoods programs. Jessica brought materials and shared information about Seattle ReLeaf, a program that engages residents of the city in urban forestry, to plant 1000 trees in residential yards each fall. Seattle ReLeaf partners with Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) to provide education, maintenance reminders, and tree care training to all residents that receive these trees. Tree Ambassadors, part of the Seattle ReLeaf program, provides urban forest leadership training to residents of local neighborhoods. Tree Ambassadors help to organize projects, including tree planting and invasive plant removal work parties. More information can be found at:

<http://www.seattle.gov/trees/>

Minutes from May were reviewed. Sandy moved to approve, Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

**Committee Meetings**

Breakout sessions were scheduled, however, given the size of the meeting, breakouts were not conducted. Outreach and legislative issues were discussed by all. Sandy is not aware of any bills being requested that involve urban forestry, however she will keep watching as the session gets closer. Evergreen Communities Act was discussed briefly. The Council agreed that now is not the time to request funding, but recognized that the bill has not been repealed. DNR has a modest legislative agenda this year. All state agencies are working on 10% budget reduction plans now. DNR is able to use fire suppression savings to make up that cut due to a mild fire season. If the reduction proposal is accepted, there will be few impacts to the agency.

Jeff mentioned that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of tough budget choices for communities and urban forestry programs are often on the chopping blocks. He recommended sending a blast email about the costs and risks of deferred maintenance in our urban forests. Tree Link and the DNR blog are both good places to spread this message. Linden suggested the article come from the Council; Kathy and Jim Freed will work on a draft; Sarah and Linden will assist in reviews.

Discussion ensued about best messages. Scott said if we don't take care of trees proactively, it becomes a risk management issue. Key Message: Safety! Washington Cities Insurance Authority and Washington Rural Cities Insurance Pool (WRCIP) may be a good place to check. The safety angle is important to assure community/row/parks safety.

Linden requested that each council member strive to provide pertinent information to their representative organizations.

Council Communique Authors:

November – Terry; Tree maintenance needs during tight budget times

December – Sandy; DOT by November 25th

January – Ara; Importance of Community Involvement in tight budget times, December 23rd

February – Kathy; Benefits of trees in relation to tough budgets. Due by January 25th

**2012 Work Plan**

Sarah led a discussion about the Council work for 2012. Council vacancies were discussed. If council members have recommendations for vacant positions, please get that information to Sarah by the end of October.

Ara recommended having clear expectations for new (and existing) Council members. Council activities/duties average approximately 3-4 hours per month, in addition to the 3 or 4 meetings (which likely include travel). She suggested that a contract/letter of commitment be developed and signed by incoming members

**General Duties - ALL**

1. Prioritize and attend all meetings
2. Serve and participate on one Council Subcommittee
3. Present at 2 or more Arbor Day/Tree City USA celebrations each year (or work with staff to identify another need for community outreach)
4. Submit one Council Communique article annually
5. Communicate UCF goals/messages/information to the organization you represent
6. Serve as the meeting coordinator for at least one meeting within your term
7. Serve as a sounding board for program staff

**Optional Duties**

1. Present urban forestry presentations as requested
2. Review and score grants (one or two members) with UCF staff
3. Serve as Council Chair or Vice Chair
4. Find recognition opportunities in your area or within your professional discipline (awards)

Sarah will write this up, along with Staff duties that include: reminders for Council Communique articles, assistance with meeting logistics, and expense reimbursement.

Motion: Accept draft list of expectations and create a process for new and existing members to sign a contract of commitment at the February meeting. Scott moved, Jeff second. Motion carried.

1 Motion: Executive Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the Council to review and  
2 endorse nominations (in cooperation with program staff) and communicate this to the CPL.  
3 Sandy moved, Scott seconded. Motion carried.  
4

## 5 **Outcomes for 2012**

6 In addition to regular business (council communique, Arbor Day participation, etc.) the Council  
7 will work on the following:

- 8 1. Implement the awards and recognition program (refine in 2011)
- 9 2. Outreach to communities/organizations/professional affiliations represented by WCFC
- 10 3. Be a visible presence around the state, to reaffirm UCF and Tree City USA programs
- 11 4. Actively support the grant program which passes federal grants to local projects  
12 (including review committee)
- 13 5. Communicate and advise on local, State and Federal legislation pertaining to forestry,  
14 urban forestry, and community issues.
- 15 6. Support and integrate/engage new and current members.

16 Sandy moved to accept, Ara seconded to accept the above as 2012 work program. Motion  
17 carried.  
18

19 **Officer nominations for 2012** – Nominations were taken from the floor. Chair nominees: Joe  
20 Scorcio. Vice Chair nominees: Sandy Salisbury, Jim Flott, Jim Freed  
21

## 22 **Meeting Dates and Locations for 2012**

23 Proposed meeting dates and locations for 2012:  
24

25 February 8, Olympia (organizer: Sandy/Sarah);  
26 May 9, Ellensburg (Dave/Brian);  
27 August 8 (University Place - Joe);  
28 October 10 (Mt Vernon/Bellingham/Anacortes – coordinator TBA).  
29

30 Two 90 minute conference calls to check in on action items and subcommittee reports (led by  
31 Sarah):

32 March 14 (pre-arbor day)  
33 December 12 (legislative and annual meeting).  
34

35 Meetings and conference calls will be held second Wednesday of the month. August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting  
36 may be transitioned to a conference call meeting at the executive committee's discretion.  
37

38 Motion: Dave moved and Sandy seconded to have six meetings (four place based, two  
39 conference calls) be held in 2012. Motion carried with one descending vote.  
40

## 41 **USFS Research Update – Green Cities Alliance**

42  
43 A report about research being done by the Green Cities Research Alliance (GCRA) was  
44 substituted for the usual award ceremony recognizing a local urban forestry volunteer. Presenters  
45 representing the science program were Weston Brinkley and Ara Erickson of the Cascade Land  
46 Conservancy, and Kathy Wolf of the US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. The  
47 GCRA has launched a suite of urban forestry and environmental stewardship research programs,

1 with much of the initial work being funded by ARRA stimulus funding. Ara presented a status  
2 report on the Forest Ecosystem Values project, which includes applications of i-Tree Eco across  
3 the City of Seattle urban forest canopy, and King County's open space forest systems. The  
4 Seattle report will be ready in February 2012. Weston Brinkley and Kathy Wolf described a  
5 series of studies that will help stewardship organizations to better understand their volunteer  
6 base, which can help with volunteer recruitment and retention for projects. Results of the survey  
7 research are now being written up and will be available in January 2012.

#### 8 9 **U&CF Program Update – Sarah Foster**

10 Sarah gave a quick update, via Barbara Hollenbeck, on the federal budget.

11  
12 Sarah gave an update on the Puget Sound Veterans project. This project will work with the  
13 Department of Ecology to hire a crew of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to  
14 complete urban forest restoration projects in King, Pierce, and Snohomish County. Kathy Wolf  
15 will conduct research on the benefits of the project. The project will start in November.

16  
17 Sarah and Linden provided an update on the UCF program activities. 2012 Community Forestry  
18 Assistance grants are now available; applications are due November 10. Council members will  
19 be solicited to review applications in January. A number of urban forestry workshops were  
20 completed in October. The Community Tree Management Institute (CTMI) will be offered in  
21 2012 in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry. For more information on any of  
22 these projects, visit the program website at [www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/urbanforestry) or contact Sarah.

#### 23 24 **Recap of Action Items:**

- 25 1. Legislative committee to monitor anything with 2012 session
- 26 2. Council/DNR blog on UCF and budgeting (Jim Freed, Kathy, Linden, Sarah)
- 27 3. Council Communique pieces (Terry, Sandy, Ara, Kathy next four months)
- 28 4. Executive committee and appointments with Sarah

29 Joe expressed his sincere thanks to Jeff and Scott at their final meetings. He also extended his  
30 thanks to Barry and Mark who were unable to attend their final meeting.

31  
32 Next meeting: February 8<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. Commissioner Goldmark and State Forester Everett will  
33 be invited.

34  
35 Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.